

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-22, 25 and 27-39 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 16 and 25 are amended herein. Claims 2-4 23-24, 26-28 and 40 are cancelled. No new matter has been added.

REJECTIONS

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3-9, 15-22, 25, and 27-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boulanger et al., Patent No. 6,583,808 in view of Domschitz (200400645404).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following rational.

Applicants respectfully submit that Boulanger does not teach or suggest “generating a common data stream based on said at least one clustering parameter; and sending said common data stream from a sending node to said cluster of receiving nodes” or “generating a three-dimensional model of said object to which said new view synthesis technique is applied to generate said common video image stream” (emphasis added) as recited in Applicants’ Independent Claims 1, 16 and 25.

Applicants understand Boulanger to disclose a system and method of stereo videoconferencing, in which for each participant, camera pairs are used “to capture a stereo pair of video images of each of the other participants.... For each participant, the system assembles a stereo video display image of a virtual meeting room, combining the stereo pair images of each of the other participants appropriately sized and positioned.” (Emphasis added; Boulanger, Abstract.)

Further, Boulanger focuses upon providing an illusion to the meeting participants of an immersion in a real meeting in 3D virtual space. Each meeting participant is sent stereo pairs of

the other meeting participants. In other words, each meeting participant is receiving images of all the meeting participants, excepting themselves. Thus, each meeting participant is receiving a different image from any other meeting participant. Therefore, different data streams are being sent to each meeting participant.

Boulanger discloses a method of providing a meeting in 3D virtual space by sending stereo pairs of each of the other meeting participants to each meeting participant and thus different data streams, to create the illusion of an immersion in a real meeting in 3D virtual space. In contrast, Applicants' Independent Claims 1, 16 and 25 disclose generating a common data stream, generating a three-dimensional model of said object to which said new view synthesis technique is applied to generate said common video image stream and sending the common data stream from a sending node to a cluster of receiving nodes in order to reduce the computational cost associated with producing each distinct data stream.

Additionally, since Boulanger involves sending different data streams to various meeting participants, Boulanger fails to reduce the overall computational cost as is an objective of Applicants' Claims 1, 16 and 25 because Boulanger produces distinct data streams to each meeting participant.

The Examiner cites Domschitz as teaching this claimed feature. Applicants respectfully submit that it would significantly change the principal mode of operation of Boulanger to include the features of Domschitz. Specifically, since the invention of Boulanger sends stereo pairs of each of the other meeting participants to each meeting participant and thus different data streams,

Applicants do not understand how one of ordinary skill in the art would modify this system to use a common data stream, as claimed without requiring significant changes to the invention of Boulanger.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that combining Boulanger and Domschitz is improper and the rejection should be removed.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 10-14, and 34-38 are patentable over Boulanger in view of Domschitz and Applicants respectfully request allowance of these claims.

Claims 10-14, and 34-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boulanger in view of Domschitz and in further view of Elbaz et al, U.S. Patent No. 6, 757,005 (hereinafter, Elbaz). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following rational.

As stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that it would significantly change the principal mode of operation of Boulanger to include the features of Domschitz. Specifically, since the invention of Boulanger sends stereo pairs of each of the other meeting participants to each meeting participant and thus different data streams, Applicants do not understand how one of ordinary skill in the art would modify this system to use a common data stream, as claimed without requiring significant changes to the invention of Boulanger.

Additionally, Elbaz fails to remedy the significant problem of modifying the multi-stream system of Boulanger to include the common stream of Domschitz. Applicants understand Elbaz to teach an input module which is operative to receive a compressed video input stream, manipulate the compressed video stream into a primary stream and optionally generate a secondary data stream associated with the primary data stream. (Elbaz, Abstract.)

However, Elbaz fails to teach or suggest “generating a common data stream, generating a three-dimensional model of said object to which said new view synthesis technique is applied to generate said common video image stream and sending the common data stream from a sending node to a cluster of receiving nodes in order to reduce the computational cost associated with producing each distinct data stream,” as claimed.

For this rational, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 10-14, and 34-38 are patentable over Boulanger in view of Domschitz and in further view of Elbaz and Applicants respectfully request the rejection be removed and respectfully request allowance of these claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above-listed remarks and amendments, reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested. Applicants submit Claims 1, 5-22, 25, and 29-39 to be in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims. Based on the amendments and arguments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 5-22, 25, and 29-39 overcome the rejections of record. Therefore, allowance of Claims 1, 5-22, 25, and 29-39 is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,
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